

Amendments to the Claims

1 1. (currently amended) A method for encoding an inter-frame of a
2 compressed video, the inter-frame including a plurality of macroblocks in a
3 predetermined order, each macroblock having an associated motion vector,
4 comprising:

5 identifying, for each current macroblock in the predetermined order, a
6 set of near macroblocks;

7 assigning an index to each near macroblock;

8 determining a difference between the motion vector of the current
9 macroblock and the motion vector of each near macroblocks;

10 sorting the indices of the near macroblocks in order of the differences;

11 appending the sorted indices to the inter-frame, in which the sorted
12 indices are identified by a separation code in the inter-frame.

1 2. (original) The method of claim 1, in which the set of near macroblocks are
2 immediately adjacent to the current macroblock.

1 3. (original) The method of claim 2, in which macroblocks immediately
2 adjacent to the set of near macroblocks are included in the set.

1 4. (original) The method of claim 1, in which the order is a raster scan order.

1 5. (original) The method of claim 1, in which the difference is in terms of a
2 mean squared error.

- 1 6. (original) The method of claim 1, in which the difference is in terms of an
- 2 absolute error.

7. (canceled)

- 1 8. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - 2 transmitting the inter-frame through a noisy channel;
 - 3 decoding the transmitted inter-frame;
 - 4 detecting a lost macroblock in the decoded inter-frame;
 - 5 reading the sorted indices corresponding the lost macroblock;
 - 6 concealing the lost macroblock by one of the motion vectors identified
 - 7 in the sorted indices.
- 1 9. (original) The method of claim 8, in which the one motion vector is a
- 2 received motion vector with a smallest difference to the motion vector of the
- 3 lost macroblock.
- 1 10. (original) The method of claim 1, in which macroblocks along edges of
- 2 the inter-frame are replicated adjacently on an outside of the inter-frame to
- 3 facilitate processing of edge blocks of the current macroblock.